

THE BOER STRNGTH.

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT SURPRISE TO BRITAIN.

AT LEAST FIFTY THOUSAND MEN.

The Transvaal are also well supplied with Artillery of Latest Pattern—Heavy Fighting Around Ladysmith Friday.

LONDON, November 7.—The confusion last evening of General Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief, the Boers were more powerful and more numerous than had been anticipated, sufficiently explains the present happenings, and the War Office will hereafter have awkward questions to answer in regard to its apparent colossal ignorance of the Boer strength, which, both in numbers of men and excellence of artillery, is apparently a complete surprise to the British military authorities.

Mail news from South Africa shows how inaccurate have been the estimates of the Intelligence Department and the governmental experts. It is gleaned therefrom that a fair estimate of the Boer forces is as follows: Around Ladysmith, 2,000; traversing Zululand, 4,000; advancing on Durban, 5,000; Colaba, 3,000; Kimberley, 7,000; Mafeking, 4,500; and on the Northern Transvaal border, 2,000. Exact information about the Boer artillery is lacking, but it is known that General Joubert's detachment, before it was reinforced, consisted of sixteen Krupp field pieces of the latest pattern, and two heavy Creusot siege guns, which, but for the opportune arrival of the British naval brigade, would have rendered a very formidable force.

MARKED NAVAL PRECAUTIONS.

Interesting news comes from the Channel Squadron, at Gibraltar, showing preparations against all eventualities, almost unknown in European waters in peace time.

On the way to Gibraltar the fleet spread out four miles apart, and a sharp outlook was kept for suspicious craft.

At Gibraltar, anti-aircraft sentries are posted at night in different parts of the ships, with ten rounds of ball cartridges each. The small guns on the upper decks and the fighting tops are kept ready for immediate use, the ammunition being on deck, a few men sleep at the guns, the searchlights are kept working, all boats are hoisted, and are not allowed to approach without the permission of the officer of the watch.

BOERS WRECK ANOTHER BRIDGE.

CAPE TOWN, SUNDAY, November 5.—2:35 P. M.—Advices from the Orange river say it is reported that the Boers have destroyed one of the piers of the Modder river bridge, and there are rumors emanating from Hopetown, that an attack will be made on the Orange river camp.

BOER REINFORCEMENTS AT MAFFKING.

HOPETOWN, CAPE COLONY, Saturday, November 4.—A dispatch which has been received here from Kimberley, dated November 1st, says:

"Apparently the Boer reinforcements for Mafeking have arrived, and the Boers are now more numerous and closer all around Kimberley. About 1,200 of them made a demonstration three miles eastward, at Premier Mine, and opened fire on the Dutchers' camp, but they were driven back. The knowledge of the Boer reinforcements caused by the Boers firing the plan was terrific. The Boers contained thirty-five tons of dynamite, valued at £3,000. All the wounded are progressing satisfactorily."

NO WAR ARBITRATION.

BERLIN, November 7.—Regarding the alleged scheme for arbitrating the Transvaal question, a semi-official statement has been issued as follows:

"Neither the German nor the British Government has any plan of action upon the part of the Boers, France, or Spain on the Transvaal question. In any case it may be most positively stated that no such plan have been brought to the knowledge of the German Government from any quarter whatever, and, therefore, it has not been in position to reject any such or similar proposals."

BOER ATTACK REPELLED.

LONDON, November 8.—News has just arrived from Mafeking, showing that the Boers have been repulsed after a bombardment, firing as many as 30 shells in thirty-six hours, though causing but little damage, and wounding only four men.

On that day they closed in all around the town, and made a determined attempt to rush it. The garrison turned out to a man, and delivered a terrific rifle and Maxim fire, which speedily stampeded the Boers, who were driven over mine, which exploded and scattered them in all directions.

It is believed at Mafeking that the Boers suffered heavily, and are not likely to make another attempt to storm the town.

BOERS INVADE ZULULAND.

DURBAN, NATAL, Sunday evening, November 5.—The Boers have invaded Ingavuma, Zululand, and looted and burned the public buildings and stores. The magistrate, police, and other inhabitants fled toward Eshowe.

TWO MORE BRITISH CORPS.

LONDON, November 6.—It is now virtually certain that another division of British men to South Africa as shortly as possible. For this purpose a second and third army corps will be mobilized. The second will consist of 40,000 men, of whom 10,000 will go to Africa and the rest be concentrated at Aldershot, in readiness for an emergency. The third corps will number 25,000 men, who will be used for garrison purposes at home. This, the entire British army will virtually be mobilized, which will be an unprecedented occurrence.

SAMOA TREATY SIGNED.

Adjustment by Arbitration of Claims of Inhabitants.

WASHINGTON, November 7.—Secretary Hay, for the United States, Mr. Tower, for Great Britain, and Mr. Munster, for Germany, signed a convention providing for the adjustment by arbitration of claims of the inhabitants of Samoa for damages resulting from the naval and military operations there last spring.

King Oscar II. of Norway and Sweden, is specified by the treaty as the arbitrator.

Drowning at Pensacola.

PENSACOLA, FLA., November 7.—William Lambert and J. P. Watson were caught in a squall this morning while out sailing. Their boat capsized, and after they had waited four hours for relief, they were rescued by the cutter, the Whitcomb, and were taken to the hospital. Lambert was finally rescued by Captain Johnson and the crew of the ship, the cutter, the Whitcomb, and were taken to the hospital.

FRIDAY'S FIGHTING.

The Boer artillery fire was accurate and well sustained, but ineffective. The British cavalry was constantly out, the investment not being close enough to prevent this. Cavalry and artillery, under Colonel Brocksmaut, about noon, drove the Boers from the position. Our artillery shelled three of the enemy's guns into silence. The British casualties were slight.

ALLIED BOER TREACHERY.

DURBAN, NATAL, November 5.—2:35 P. M.—A native eye-witness of Thursday's battle near Ladysmith says the Boers were caught on the open ground and raised several white flags. The British then advanced without firing to accept the surrender of the Boers, but were received with a volley at close range. Enraged at this treachery, the Lancashire, the Buffs, and the Buffs, charged through and through the enemy, and did great execution. A lot of prisoners and arms were captured.

BOER BATTLE ON FRIDAY WITH THE BOERS.

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A BRILLIANT WEDDING.

WASHINGTON, November 7.—Count Casini, the Russian Ambassador, is just back from a visit to St. Petersburg, and the statement to-day that he had returned without any special instructions relating to China, and without any mission to perform in that connection.

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IN NEWPORT NEWS.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. GEORGE E. GRIFFITHS.

HAD A STROKE OF PARALYSIS.

That Was the Cause of the Drowning—Important Session of the Circuit Court to Be Held—The Abolition—Other Mention.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., November 7.—(Special).—The remains of George E. Griffiths, the merchant who was accidentally drowned at Cape Charles Sunday night, were brought here to-day, and the funeral took place this evening, the body having been in the water nearly twelve hours, and its condition making an early burial necessary.

H. J. Lewis, partner of deceased, returned from Cape Charles this morning. He says there is no doubt that Mr. Griffiths' misfortune was due directly to a paralytic stroke, with which he had been threatened for some time. This theory is borne out by the fact that the man made